

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TBIO, OSCI, PL, OVIP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
WELFARE, MARIAN SLIWINSKI, TO THE U.S.

REF: WARSAW 270

1. HEW STAFF HAS CONSIDERED PROS AND CONS OF PROPOSED
VISIT OF MINISTER SLIWINSKI TO US AND PLANS TO RECOMMEND
TO HEW SECRETARY THAT HE NOT RPT NOT INVITE SLIWINSKI FOR
REASONS SET FORTH BELOW. HEW WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING
EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THIS RECOMMENDATION, INCLUDING ANY
PERSUASIVE REASONS WHY MINISTER SHOULD BE INVITED.

2. ALTHOUGH HEW HAS ENJOYED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH
MOHSW FOR MANY YEARS AS A RESULT OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
IN MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION, THIS RESEARCH HAS BEEN
FUNDED WITH US-OWNED ZLOTYS. AS EMBASSY WELL AWARE, GOP
IS CONCERNED ABOUT USG DECISION TO REMOVE ZLOTY FROM EXCESS
CURRENCY LIST AT END OF CY 1976. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
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HEW IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS WITH A SENIOR GOP OFFICIAL

LIKE MINISTER SLIWINSKI NEW PROGRAMS OR MAKE COMMITMENTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WITH POLAND UNTIL IT HAS A BETTER PICTURE OF PROBABLE FUNDING SITUATION AFTER 1976.

3. ALSO, TIMING FOR PROPOSED TRIP IS POOR. WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY MEETS FOR FIRST THREE WEEKS IN MAY, WHICH WILL REQUIRE PARTICIPATION OF KEY HEALTH OFFICIALS WHO WOULD NEED TO BE INVOLVED WITH A SLIWINSKI VISIT. MOREOVER, HEW SECRETARY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION TRIP ABROAD WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE IN LATE SPRING AND WHICH COULD CONFLICT WITH MINISTER'S PREFERRED TIMING. FYI EHRlich, WHILE IN GENEVA FOR WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD, LEARNED FROM WOJCZAK THAT SLIWINSKI UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS MAY BE BAD YEAR FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT. END FYI.

4. IN VIEW OF APPARENT INTEREST BY GENERAL ELECTRIC IN TRIP AND INTENSE DESIRE OF GE OFFICIALS TO HAVE SLIWINSKI VISIT MILWAUKEE MEDICAL SYSTEMS DIVISION, HEW RELUCTANT TO BECOME OFFICIALLY INVOLVED IN TRIP CLOSELY TIED TO COMMERCIAL VENTURE.

5. HOWEVER, SHOULD SLIWINSKI MAKE GE-FINANCED PRIVATE TRIP, HEW SECRETARY WOULD, SCHEDULE PERMITTING, BE WILLING TO MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON AND ARRANGE FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS.
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